

PRESS RELEASE

United States District Court - Central District of Illinois Announces New Case Management and Electronic Case Files System.

Springfield, IL, - The United States District Court for the Central District of Illinois announces the adoption of a new case management and electronic case files system. This new system, known as CM/ECF, was developed by the Federal Judiciary to replace outdated case management systems in more than 200 federal courts nationwide. CM/ECF will provide the Court with updated and enhanced case management tools, the capability to store court documents in electronic format and the ability to accept electronic filings. The Court plans to be live on the new system September 1, 2004.

Attorneys practicing in the Federal Courts in Peoria, Urbana, Springfield and Rock Island, Illinois will be able to file documents directly with the Court over the Internet. The CM/ECF system uses standard computer hardware, an Internet connection and a browser, and accepts documents in Portable Document Format (PDF). The system is easy to use. Filers prepare a document using conventional word processing software, then convert it to PDF. After logging onto the Court's web site with a court-issued password, the filer fills out several screens with information that serves as the basis for the docket entry, attaches the document and submits it to the Court. A notice verifying court receipt is generated and sent by e-mail to the filer automatically. Other parties in the case also receive e-mail notification of action in the case if registered in the system.

There are no added fees for filing documents over the Internet using CM/ECF. However, existing document filing fees do apply. Electronic access to court data is available through the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER). Litigants receive one free look at documents filed electronically in their cases and can print or download the documents at that time. Additional copies are available for viewing or downloading at \$.07 per page, with a maximum of \$2.10 per document. The judiciary has set the fee at the lowest possible level sufficient to recoup program costs as directed by Congress to fund electronic access through user fees.

For more information on CM/ECF in the District Court, visit the Court's web site www.ilcd.uscourts.gov or contact Project Manager Pam Robinson at (217) 492-4027.